

Serial No. 10/653,797, filed 9/3/03

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 4-11 and 14 as anticipated by Durina (5,188,399). Durina does not disclose a second interlocking member extending radially inward from an inner circumferential surface. Instead, Durina discloses that the coupling 15 has openings 16 therethrough. The square head rivets 12 protruding radially outwardly from the end 10 are received in the openings 16 of the coupling 15, as shown in the section view of Figure 6 of Durina. There is nothing protruding radially inward from the inner circumferential surface of the coupling 15. Therefore, claims 1 and 14 are not anticipated by Durina. For at least this same reason, new claim 15 is not anticipated by Durina.

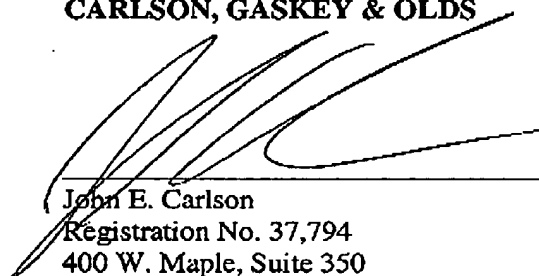
Additionally, the Examiner offers no motivation or suggestion for the modifications to Durina that would be necessary to meet the elements of claims 3, 12 and 13. The fact that Applicant has disclosed multiple embodiments does not mean that they are obvious modifications of one another. In fact, Applicant's specification is not a proper source of motivation for an obviousness rejection. Additionally, even if alternate designs would "appear to work equally well," this is not motivation to make such a modification, since it only "appears" at all in Applicant's specification.

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It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Please charge \$50.00 for one claim in excess of 20 to Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C. If any additional fees or extensions of time are required, please charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1482.

Respectfully submitted,

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